

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

STEVEN LEE KOPHART,

Plaintiff,

vs.

NORFOLK REGIONAL CENTER, KASSEY
KOENIG, ROCHELLE CHRISTJANS, JOSH
DIETERMAN, BANDY BASCHULT, and
MICHAEL GETTMAN,

Defendants.

8:24CV401

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

Plaintiff Steven Lee Kophart ("Plaintiff"), a non-prisoner,¹ filed a Motion for Leave to Proceed in Forma Pauperis. [Filing No. 2](#). Upon review of Plaintiff's Motion, the Court finds that Plaintiff is financially eligible to proceed in forma pauperis.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that leave to proceed in forma pauperis, [Filing No. 2](#), is granted, and the Complaint shall be filed without payment of fees. Plaintiff is advised that the next step in his case will be for the Court to conduct an initial review of his claims to determine whether summary dismissal is appropriate under [28 U.S.C. § 1915\(e\)\(2\)](#). The Court will conduct this initial review in its normal course of business.

¹ Plaintiff's Complaint, [Filing No. 1](#), indicates he is committed to a state mental institution. Thus, Plaintiff is not a "prisoner" within the meaning of the PLRA. See [Reed v. Clarke, No. 4:04CV3168, 2005 WL 1075092, at *1 n.1 \(D. Neb. May 5, 2005\)](#) ("The plaintiff is presently in the Lincoln Regional Center pursuant to a mental health commitment. The Prison Litigation Reform Act ('PLRA') does not apply to persons in custody pursuant to the Mental Health Commitment Act, as the definition of 'prisoner' in the PLRA does not include a person involuntarily committed for reasons of mental health.") (citing [Kolocotronis v. Morgan, 247 F.3d 726, 728 \(8th Cir.2001\)](#)).

Dated this 1st day of November, 2024.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J F Bataillon". The signature is stylized with a large, circular initial "J" and a horizontal line extending from the end.

Joseph F. Bataillon
Senior United States District Judge